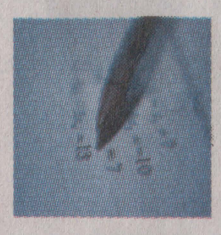
Finals Schedule Page 3



Movie Review Page 7

This is the last issue of The DrumBeat newspaper for the fall 2023 semester. We will resume publication on Feb. 2, 2024 and will continue to post on thedrumbeat.com.

The DrumBeat

Tyler Junior College's independent student media since 1927

November 17, 2023 - February 1, 2024

Vol. 93 - Issue 7

STUDENT STARTER KIT

STUDENT SUCCESS KIT FOR A STRESS-FREE SEMESTER

By Krilon Marsh
Editor-in-Chief

With the end of the semester coming to a close it also brings a start of a brand new semester. New classes, new people, new things to do. The beginning of a new semester can always be stressful for incoming students and students continuing their academic journey. There are a few different people and resources on campus to make students feel a little bit less stressed. Whether it be financial situations making it hard for a student or even the social aspect of finding new friends and clubs to join, TJC has a organization or person you can turn to for support.

CALLING CARD

Brad Gifford,
Director of TRIO Programs
EOC and SSS Rogers Student Center 301
Phone: 903-510-2612 Email: bgif@tjc.edu

Danna Baggett
Director- Tutoring Services
LRC 204
Phone: 903-510-3114 Email: dree@tjc.edu

Lauren Tyler
Director- Student Life
RSC-2nd floor
Phone: 903-510-2611 Email: ltyl@tjc.edu

Tracey Williams
Counselor/Learning Specialist
RSC 302
Phone: 903-510-2041 Email: twil@tjc.edu

Academic Advising
Monday-Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
RSC Phone: 903-510-3287

Devon Wiggins
Director- Financial Aid
and Enrollment Support
Phone: 903-510-2385 Email: faid@tjc.edu

FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Brad Gifford, director of TRIO programs, oversees student support services and educational opportunity centers. TRIO is made to work with current students who are majoring in four-year degrees such as education majors, science majors or business majors or students currently taking their basics. "Our goal is to work with low-income first-generation students and students that have a disability either an academic or physical disability, to help them be more successful here at TJC," Gifford said. These are just a few of the things that TRIO does to help students. Here are some suggestions for current and new students going in to the spring semester.

-Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid the F.A.F.S.A.

-Constantly looking for on-and off-campus scholarships

-TRIO helps students with financial literacy

-Renting textbooks instead of buying textbooks

-If you plan on being at TJC in the fall 2024 semester the general TJC scholarship application is available

Fun Fact: " TJC gives over almost $4 million out a year to students," Gifford said.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Danna Baggett is the director of Academic Services. "So I have the wonderful opportunity to be able to be over our tutoring department, as well as our new Center for Academic Exams, where we do online testing for students," Baggett said. In the Tutoring Center they help students comprehend the various topics that they're studying in class. It's a free to use resource where all you have to do is set up a appointment and meet them in the Tutoring Center on the first floor of the library. The new center for testing on campus is for online and in-person classes. Professors set up times for their students to go take a test. Grades are always a thought on a students mind. Baggett has a few suggestions to help lighten the load.

-Plenty of rest and eating right

-Before you start to stress about a class, go to tutoring for the class

-Talk to your professors about what they think you can work on

-Prep for test a week prior to the test

SOCIAL SUCCESS

Lauren Tyler, director of Student Life, sets up all the activities that happen on campus. She tries to improve students experiences outside of the classroom. Going to events can not only open up students to new friends but also experience in the field they're going into." You know, we want everybody to, you know, feel like they're a part of the campus, right, students that do that typically are more successful," Tyler said. Tyler also had some other tips and suggestions for students.

-Go to campus events

-Join clubs

-Go to the involvement fairs

-Join clubs that pertain to your major

-Take advantage of all the free stuff you can get as a college student

MENTAL SUCCESS

Tracey Williams is the only counselor on campus. Students can go to her to talk about things that are causing stress or just to vent about their frustration. For new and continuing students, she has a few suggestions to make lives just a little easier.

-Set a schedule, even for out-of-class activities such as studying, exercise and social activities. Having a routine is one of the keys to good mental health.

-Connect with your advisers and professors, get to know them.

-Recognize signs of stress such as changes in energy, appetite, sleep and mood.

-Get help by confiding in friends and utilizing campus resources when you begin to feel overly stressed.

-Recognize this is a challenging time for your parents and family as well. Give grace toward them as they are adjusting to the changes, much like you.

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Entertainment 7

Questions or concerns? Email: news@thedrumbeat.com or call: 903-510-2299

Soccer team captain shares the power of teamwork

One of the team captains for TJC women's soccer team, Gabrielle Wiebe, sat down with The DrumBeat to talk about the team's fall season. The Lady Apaches are having an exceptional year with a seasonal record of 16-2-3 as of today.

Team Summary

TITLE	RECORD
Overall	16-2-3 (.833)
Conference	11-0-2 (.923)
Streak	Lost 1
Home	10-0-1
Away	6-1-1
Neutral	0-1-1

Team stats courtesy of apacheathletics.com.

Q: Looking back on a remarkable season, you have played 19 games with only 1 loss, What would you say has been the key to your team's success this season?

A: Honestly, I feel like we put more work in than most teams out there. And we started off really hard at preseason, you know, working two days, we did technically like three days and just worked really hard. And I think it also had, you know, made us have a team bond like chemistry. And I feel like that's made us really successful.

Q: Your team has had two tie games with Navarro College this season, a team known for its physicality, strength, and speed, which goes to show how these games can get very intense. How does your team stay motivated and maintain focus during such intense games? What's the team's mindset in such moments?

A: Our mindset is, first, we, you know, we have to focus we started off really well with like a good warm-up. And then we all just look at each other and we say we're gonna do it for each other. So just working hard knowing we're doing it for the person next to us.

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals that you do?

A: We have a really funny cheer, and we do it for every game, but it gets us hyped up and ready for the game.

Q: Can you share any memorable moments from your season that you and your teammates will always remember, and what makes these moments in particular stand out for you?

A: I know for sure one memorable game was our first game against Navarro. We had the band out. We had all the students out. It was a great game. And we were down 1 - 0 until the last five or 10 minutes and we came back and tied it. Sam Roddenhof, one of the forwards, scored and helped us win the game; well tied the game, but it felt like a win because it was last minute.

Q: That's a great segue into the next question, how do you and the team handle the pressure of representing your school on such a big stage. We mentioned that you might be headed to the national tournaments. So how do you keep a steady mind?

A: I believe Coach Rose and Coach Katie both did really well recruiting all of us players and we all just have the good morals our focus. We all try our best in school, try our best on the field and just try to keep our mind right for these big moments like we're going into nationals just being able to all have or be surrounded by girls that have the same morals and work ethic it's helps us stay focused.

Q: As you reflect on the team's most recent loss to Hill College, can you share the key takeaway that the team will carry with them into the upcoming games?

A: We focused on it today in practice. It's just lighting that fire back you know. At the beginning of the year, we had worked hard and had that really good fire. We all worked together. And then I feel like it's slowly decreased and after that game, I feel like we all got motivated and snapped into place real fast, you know, we figured out that we needed to focus up a little more and light that fire again.

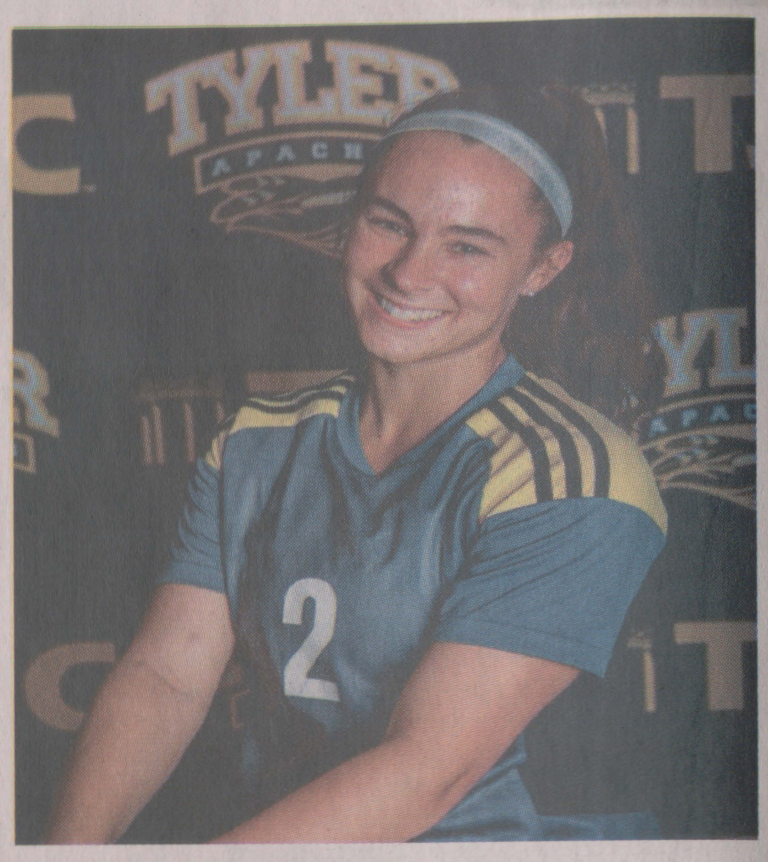


Photo from apacheathletics.com

For more information and on the women's soccer team, visit apacheathletics.com. or find them on Instagram @tjcwsoccer.

Interview by Kevin Jabo
Watch the full interview at thedrumbeat.com.

TJC West Automotive Program

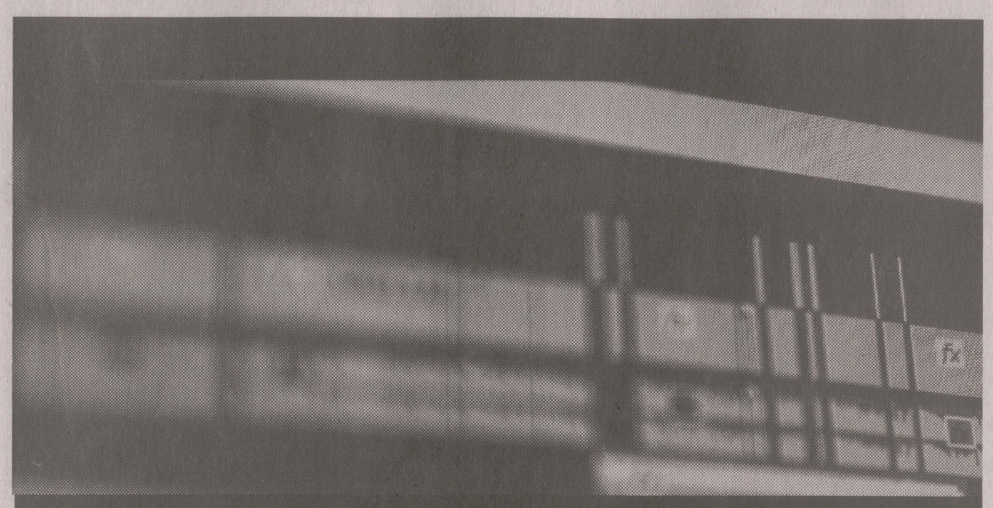
Students of TJC West Automotive Program use real car parts and tools like an engine test stand in lab, after their lecture, to test their skills. For example, students will run an engine on an enginge test stand and watch the engine to see if it is safe to put back in the vehicle.

David Briscoe's, dual credit coordinator and professor of the automotive program, is teaching his students the different parts of the motor and how to build and rebuild specific parts of the motor in vehicles at TJC West. Briscoe's students are learning to lap valves and valve seats to prepare to install them into the vehicle.

Briscoe is teaching his students at TJC West how to take apart, look at and rebuild motors of different vehicles. Briscoe is showing students the different parts of the motor they are working on and how to assemble and reassemble the different parts of the motor.

The TJC West automotive program students work on the different vehicles TJC provides them. According to Bryan Baker, Department chair over the welding and automotive programs at TJC West, two students are assigned per vehicle to work on what they learned in class.

Photos by Savanna Benner



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Final Exam Schedule Fall 2023

Class Day/Time	Final Exam Day	Final Exam Time
7:00 a.m., TR	Tues., Dec.12	7:00—8:50 a.m.
10:10 a.m., TR	Tues., Dec. 12	10:10—12:00 p.m.
1:20 p.m., TR	Tues., Dec. 12	1:20—3:10 p.m.
4:30 p.m., TR	Tues., Dec. 12	4:30—6:20 p.m.
7:00 a.m., FS & 7:00 a.m. F only	Fri., Dec. 8	7:00—8:50 a.m.
10:10 a.m., FS & 10:10 a.m. F only	Fri., Dec. 8	11:00—12:50 p.m.
1:20 p.m., FS & 1:20 p.m. F only	Fri., Dec. 8	3:00—4:50 p.m.
7:00 a.m., S only	Sat., Dec. 9	7:00—8:50 a.m.
8:35 a.m., FS & 8:35 a.m. F only	Fri., Dec. 8	9:00—10:50 a.m.
10:10 a.m., S only	Sat., Dec. 9	10:10—12:00 p.m.
11:45 a.m. FS & 11:45 a.m. F only	Fri., Dec. 8	1:00—2:50 p.m.
2:55 p.m. FS & 2:55 p.m. S only	Sat., Dec. 9	2:55—4:45 p.m.
7:00 a.m., MW	Mon., Dec. 11	7:00—8:50 a.m.
10:10 a.m., MW	Mon., Dec. 11	10:10—12:00 p.m.
1:20 p.m., MW	Mon., Dec. 11	1:20—3:10 p.m.
4:30 p.m., MW	Mon., Dec. 11	4:30—6:20 p.m.
8:35 a.m., TR	Thur., Dec. 14	8:35—10:25 a.m.
11:45 a.m. TR	Thur., Dec. 14	11:45 a.m.—1:35p.m.
2:55 p.m. TR	Thur., Dec. 14	2:55—4:45 p.m.
8:35 a.m., MW	Wed., Dec. 13	8:35—10:25 a.m.
11:45 a.m. MW	Wed., Dec. 13	11:45 a.m.—1:35 p.m.
2:55 p.m. MW	Wed., Dec. 13	2:55—4:45 p.m.
Evening Classes:		
5:30 p.m., R only & TR	Thurs., Dec. 14	5:30—7:20 p.m.
6:00 p.m., R only & TR	Thurs., Dec. 14	6:30—8:20 p.m.
7:00 p.m., R only	Thurs., Dec. 14	7:30—9:20 p.m.
5:30 p.m., M only & MW	Mon., Dec. 11	5:30—7:20 p.m.
6:00 p.m., M only & MW	Mon., Dec. 11	6:30—8:20 p.m.
7:00 p.m., M only	Mon., Dec. 11	7:30—9:20 p.m.
5:30 p.m., T only	Tues., Dec. 12	5:30—7:20 p.m.
6:00 p.m., T only	Tues., Dec. 12	6:30—8:20 p.m.
7:00 p.m., T only & 7:00 p.m. TR	Tues., Dec. 12	7:30—9:20 p.m.
5:30 p.m., W only	Wed., Dec. 13	5:30—7:20 p.m.
6:00 p.m., W only	Wed., Dec. 13	6:30—8:20 p.m.
7:00 p.m., W only & 7:00 p.m. MW	Wed., Dec. 13	7:30—9:20 p.m.

Final exam schedule can be found at tjc.edu.

Three affordable gift giving ideas for this holiday season

By Marissa Krnavek
Entertainment Editor

"The college experience" brings many new things into a person's life. People start to become adults and learn all the challenges that come with it. One of those challenges is being broke. Christmas can be an added stress because of being broke. With that, here are three affordable Christmas gift ideas.

1. A special picture

There are many ways to go about getting this special picture, and pictures are less than a dollar to print. A picture can be taken with a phone or a camera and can easily be printed out anywhere that has a photo station. A couple picture ideas are family photos or cute pictures of a pet.

Another picture idea is to make a Disney inspired movie poster of a pet. This has been a recent trend on social media. Also, it doesn't cost anything to make. To do the pet trend, search Bing Image Creator on your default browser, click on the link titled "Image Creator from Microsoft Bing" and type a description of your pet in the text box.

Making a frame for the picture is a way to give it a creative touch. For students in an art, class there are free supplies that can be used.

2. A thrifted item

Thrift stores can be a good place to find unique items. There's all kinds of decor, clothing and furniture. Going to a thrift store and finding a piece that seems like something a loved one would like is an affordable option. This ties into the first gift idea, which is the frame. A thrift store is a good place to find a frame. On top of that, there are many thrift stores in Tyler, so there is a wide variety of options.

3. A themed basket

A themed basket is an easy way to create a personalized gift, no matter who it's for. Dollar Tree is a good place to buy items for a gift basket. Many things could go in it, too like snacks, socks, blankets, candles and more. Another good place to get supplies for a themed basket is Five Below. Everything at Five Below is under $10.

These are just a few gift ideas. There are many ways to go about getting affordable Christmas presents for loved ones. This holiday season you don't have to break the bank to show someone how much you care.

Photo by Chad Madden on Unsplash.com

Top 5 Holiday attractions to visit around East Texas

By Grace Stone
Multimedia Journalist

With the holidays around the corner, it is the perfect time to participate in fun festive activities. These are a few of my favorite attractions to visit during the holiday season.

1. Holiday at the Arboretum

If you love all things Christmas, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden puts on an amazing event called "Holiday at the Arboretum." This event consists of a beautiful Christmas village that is decorated to impress. They will also have a 12 days of Christmas display and a dazzling musical tree. The "Holiday at the Arboretum is a great event for those who love to stroll through Christmas lights and get into the holiday spirit. This event is currently open and will remain open until Jan. 5, 2024. Tickets are available to purchase online at dallasarboretum.org.

2. Wonderland of Lights

If you are looking for a full immersive holiday experience Marshall, Texas has exactly what you are looking for. The Wonderland of Lights attraction has everything any Christmas enthusiast loves: businesses decorated around downtown, gigantic Christmas trees, an ice-skating rink, vintage carousel, train, and Santa's village. They also do weekly special events during the holiday season. The Wonderland of Lights is Nov. 22-30. Tickets can be purchased on marshalltexas.net.

3. Yesterland Farm

Spending time with family is a huge part of the holiday season so it is important to find activities for the whole family. Yesterland Farm is a great place for the whole family to go for a holiday experience. The park consists of fun rides, Christmas lights, corn maze, delicious food, petting zoos, shopping and more. With Yesterland being in Canton, it is a wonderful day trip location for anyone in the Tyler area. Tickets are on sale online Nov. 24-Dec. 23 on yesterlandfarm.com.

4. Gaylord Texan

If you are looking for a short festive getaway the Gaylord Texan is the place to be for the holidays. The Gaylord Texan transforms into an incredible winter wonderland and has many activities for all ages. While staying at the luxury resort, you can also walk through the Christmas village, throw real snowballs, go snow tubing, build tasty gingerbread houses, go ice-skating, walk through amazing ice sculptures and take pictures with Santa. The Gaylord Texan is the perfect destination for the holidays and provides the gift of memories that will last forever. The holiday fun has already begun and will continue until Dec. 31.

5. Santa Land

If you are looking to stay close to the Tyler area, Santa Land is the perfect place to spice up your holiday season. Santa Land is a 24-acre drive-thru light park that brings the festivities into the warmth of your car. This is a great annual tradition for Tyler natives. Santa Land is not only a light drive-thru there is also Santa pictures, a huge gift shop, trailer rides, delicious food and warm hot cocoa. Santa Land is open currently and will remain open for visitors through Jan. 4, 2024.

Photo is from the Gaylord Texan website.

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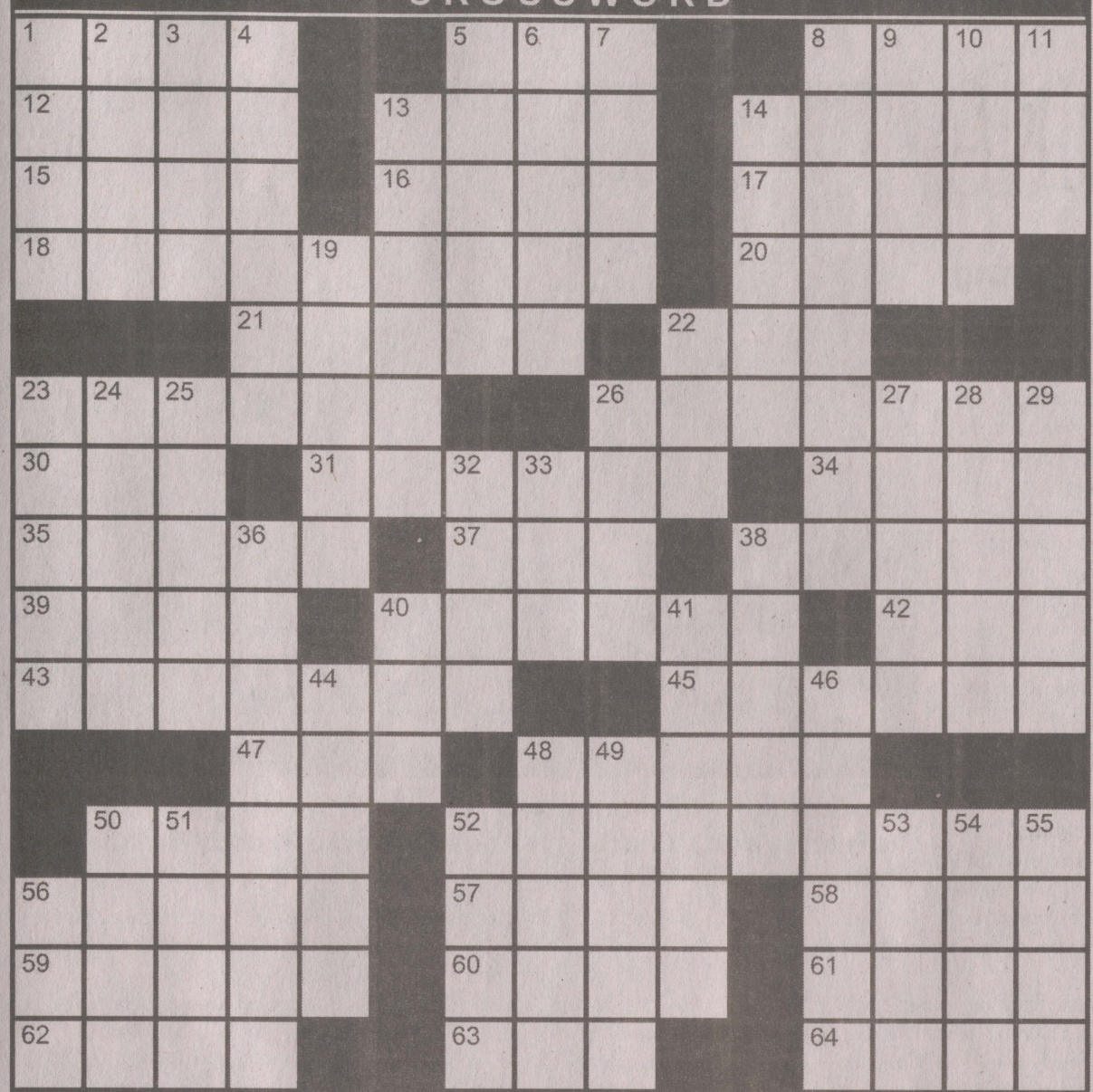

© StatePoint Media

Theme: Cats and Dogs

ACROSS

1. Baby powder
5. Hundredweight, acr.
8. Same as gauge
12. S squared, e.g.
13. Actor Wyle
14. Undergraduate's field of study
15. J. Edgar Hoover's man
16. Norse capital
17. Extremely angry
18. *Tweety chaser
20. Bob Ross' do
21. Not quite right
22. Hawaiian dish
23. Directed
26. Brought down
30. Deed
31. Rifle's backward move
34. Denim innovator
35. Like salad greens
37. Greek R
38. Read-only memory device
39. Western Samoan money
40. Oklahoma athlete
42. Tiny guitar
43. Relating to dreams
45. Like certain Debbie?
47. U.S. Marine Corps gift recipient
48. Gin mixer
50. Title for Turkish leader
52. *1929 Best Actor Oscar nominee
56. Lallygags
57. Medley
58. Pineapple producer
59. Suggestions
60. *Lassie's mark in Hollywood sidewalk
61. Arabian bigwig
62. Banana leftover
63. New York time
64. "Wanted!" state

DOWN

1. Labels with a name, on Facebook
2. Major or general employer
3. Same as #36 Down, archaically speaking
4. Painter's surface
5. Receipt listings
6. *Corgi's homeland
7. Marvel Comics hammer wielder
8. *Jon Arbuckle, Odie and ___
9. A bit cracked
10. Kind of move, 2 words
11. Bard's before
13. End of rugby match
14. *Cat sound
19. Manicurist's file
22. Neighbor of Ger.
23. *Nome, AK hero
24. Continental divide
25. Like old cracker
26. *Rhodesian Ridgeback's target
27. *Old episodes of Eddie Crane's TV show
28. Call forth
29. Two identical molecules put together
32. Rubber sandal
33. Exclamation of surprise
36. *Fido, in Latin
38. More then one crocus
40. *Canine command
41. Newspaper VIP
44. ___ beef
46. Meandered
48. Leaves at the alter, e.g.
49. Uniate church member
50. Of the highest quality
51. Open-mouthed astonishment
52. Thorny gift
53. Large book
54. Pelvic parts
55. Smart but awkward one
56. "A stiff upper ___"

SUDOKU

	4	8	3					6
1	5	2						
				5				4
	7				6	5		
			1		3			
		4	5				3	
2				9				
						6	7	2
6					4	1	9	

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

For puzzle solutions, visit www.thedrumbeat.com.

BONES AND BODY BUILDING

Kim Chastain talks on A&P and her approach to teaching

Story and Photos by Savanna Benner
Multimedia Journalist

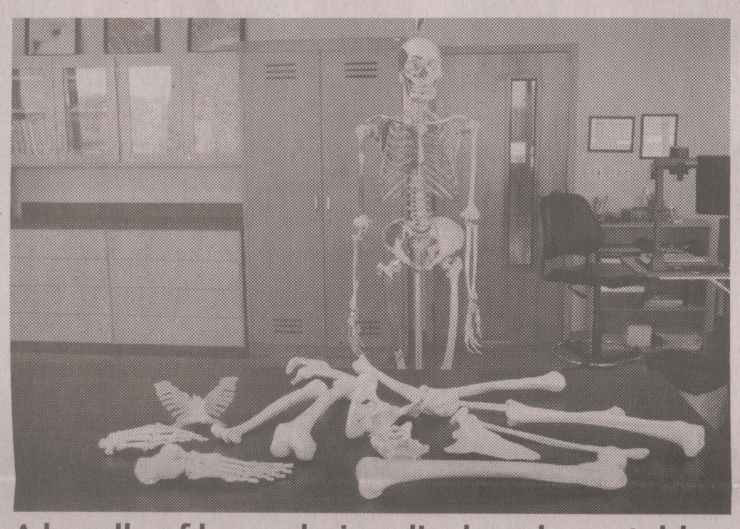
Tyler Junior College has strong, passionate teachers. Kim Chastain is no exception. Chastain, an A&P lab specialist, is compassionate for her students and has a special teaching philosophy.

"To explain things as simply as I can...they can learn this complicated material in an easy manner," Chastain said.

When Chastain informs her students about anatomy and physiology, she goes in depth about the bone structures, muscle groups and major organs. She offers a glimpse of what class is like as she grabbed a box and set it on the table. Then she opened it revealing the different shaped bones. She set them on the table where there were a few different shapes of the bones. There were small, long bones; long, skinny bones; and small, circular bones that took up the long black lab table. She then explained A&P.

"We learn about the anatomy for the body and how it works. So, basically, learn all the parts and the structures and how they function," Chastain said.

Chastain has always had a heart for teaching biology. She is able to use her love for the subject to teach others and is motivated to teach her students. Her students then use their knowledge from her to carry on in other classes to succeed in their major. Chastain has an important motivation to keep her going and teaching lab.



A bundle of bones being displayed on a table. These bones are used in lab classes at TJC.

"That would be my students. Because if they can learn that creates a positive atmosphere for me to keep going. I love being around students. I love sharing my knowledge with them," Chastain said. "And I love seeing them have that 'AHA moment' where they actually get something. I have had students come back after they have been through a class with me, and they would say, 'I really didn't understand everything, but when I got into my next A&P class, I remembered all the stuff you said, and it made a drastic difference in learning that material.'"

Chastain's students have expressed their respect and gratitude for their teacher. Through Chastain's teaching strategies, she can give her students a better understanding of A&P. Loving A&P helps her teach in a way that is easy to learn and experience the science of the body. Her students enjoy her teaching because Chastain uses a creative teaching approach.

Kim Chastain, A&P laboratory specialist, is showing bones from the human body. Chastain was also involved in body-building when she was in college.

"She is very knowledgeable from my experience. She is just generally good at teaching. I haven't had any issues with her. She is really knowledgeable," Brady Burleson, Chastain's student and physical therapist assistant major, said.

Chastain is an inspiring teacher; she is also an ex-body builder. She did body building while she was in college. She loved body building and used the knowledge of the body while she was in body building for her now A&P professor job. Body building is a sport that uses all your muscles, which is similar to A&P where you learn about the body and how it works.

"When I was in college, I was a body builder. I did that at the amateur level for three years. So now it is really nice to be able to take that information and that activity that I did and apply it to teach muscles," Chastain said.

Chastain has always been passionate about biology and science. She has been at TJC for 10 years teaching about what she loves. Through the hard work she put in at Lamar University, she graduated with an undergraduate degree in psychology, and minor in biology and graduated in 1986 with a master's as well in educational administration. She then found the A&P professor job, which she was able to use her degree in.

"I have always had a passion for biology. My degree is actually in psychology and my minor is in biology. So, I have always taken anatomy classes and biology classes, and genetic classes in college. It was just always a fascination. So, to me, psychology and biology go hand in hand," Chastain said.

Although Chastain has always has had a passion for biology, she first came here 11 years ago seeking a job as an assistant principal at a high school. No one was hiring, so she found TJC for a biology lab position, which was her minor in college.

"As an anatomy and physiology instructor, you provide students with the practical knowledge about a body part as well as the biological process that connect different systems within the bodies," according to an article, ZipRecruiter "What Do Anatomy and Physiology Instructors Do."

Chastain is a professor that not only teaches A&P, but also cares for her students being able to understand and comprehend what she is communicating to them. She wants to make her teaching interesting enough that her students remember what they learned and provide the knowledge to their future classes and employment.

"I try to transfer information over to students and help them learn to apply this all to real world actions and activities so that they can have some commonality with their patients," Chastain said. "It is really important that they can communicate appropriately and make people feel that you are approachable and that you can ask questions, which is what I try to do."

Dave Funk: Art,ceramics and the honors program

Story and Photos by Marissa Krnavek
Entertainment Editor

Fluorescent lights brighten the office as they create a warm glow. The coffee smell from the coffee bar is strong, but inviting. The room was calm and quiet, with a big table in the middle waiting to be used. This was the conference room in the honors lounge on the third floor of the Rogers Student Center where Dave Funk advises students. Funk is an artist, teacher and friend.

Funk holds many roles at TJC as the director of the honors program, and an adjunct professor in the art department who teaches a ceramics.

Funk said he has always loved art, but his love for ceramics started from a happy accident.

"I found it quite by accident," Funk said. Funk originally acquired a degree in graphic design, but realized he wasn't interested in it. He decided to take a summer ceramics class at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. His professors played a part in developing his love for ceramics.

"These guys are somebody, and it made me want to be better," Funk said. His teachers at the university he attended were famous in the ceramics world. He explains how the teachers made him want to work harder.

As for the honors program at TJC, there's many things Funk does for the honors students. He advises their class schedules, helps with classes and more.

Dave Funk has been working at TJC for more than 10 years. He started as an art professor.

"Dave's role here is to support honors students in any way he can. That comes in the form of advising, building community, helping with classes and helping professors," Honors Coordinator, Dannika Blackhurst, said. Funk is responsible for interacting with the students and faculty.

"He gets hundreds of emails and calls a day, and he answers them all. He's here all day, every day; he's constantly busy. He also goes to tons of meetings," Honors Intern and Sophomore, Jayla Wroten, said.

Funk's job as the director of the Honors Program holds many responsibilities.

"Everything that my job entails is mostly to try and help students succeed in the Honors Program, and to help them however they need to be helped is the best way to say it. I don't try and make them fit the program, I try and make the program fit them, which requires a lot of flexibility," Funk said.

Something else to note about Funk is his impact on people.

"I'm a super go-getter perfectionist kind of person, and he is always making sure I'm focused on taking care of myself and doing things that are creative and restful," Blackhurst said. According to Blackhurst, Funk has significantly helped her work-life balance.

Funk doesn't just have an impact on the people he works with, but he also has an impact on his students. Wroten explains his impact on her.

"He's made my time at honors a lot more enjoyable. I don't think I would do any of the things I currently do like PTK or be an intern without Dave. He's really nice. He challenges me to succeed," Wroten said. Wroten, who has taken Funk's ceramics class, said Funk is her favorite professor.

While Funk has had an impression on TJC, the college has also had an impact on him. Funk has worked at TJC since 2009.

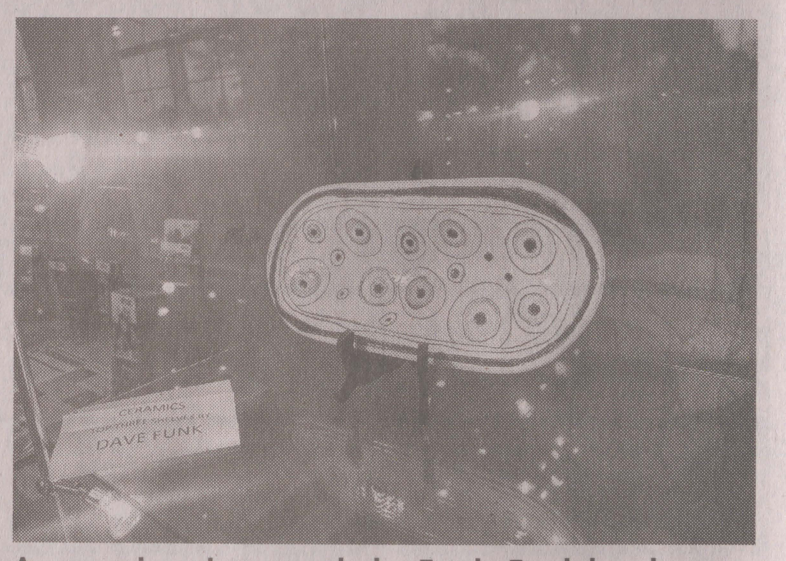
"The truest question is 'How hasn't it impacted my life for the better?' If I really think about it, the benefits have been profound. I cannot think of a way that my life here hasn't been positively impacted," Funk said. TJC has changed his life, Funk said.

Funk attends many events around campus whether those events are Phi Theta Kappa, honors events or school events.

"This place is great. For instance, my wife and son both love coming. We love to come to the events together here," Funk said.

Funk says more about why he loves working at TJC.

"I work with such great people. I'm sure other people have had this experience where your work is your work and your home life is your home life, and you don't necessarily want those to mix because your work life isn't great. My work life here is fantastic, and I love the people I work with," Funk said. As the Honors Director, Funk works with many people.



A ceramics piece made by Funk. Funk has been doing ceramics since college.

Funk added some of his favorite memories at TJC, which includes awards, students and faculty.

"Once I was nominated for the Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence Award, but I lost to Carrie Hobbs. I was never more glad to lose to somebody because she's amazing," Funk said. According to a tjc.edu/news article, "TJC employees recognized for outstanding service," the award is given to professors who demonstrate excellence as educators.

"I have now written dozens of letters of recommendation for people who have applied to medical schools and major scholarships," Funk said.

Funk said helping students is one of his favorite parts of the job. He especially loves how he works with and helps the honors students.

"I love teaching, but I get to work with students in the honors program in such a way. We can occasionally connect past just what is the formal exchange of information, or me helping with advising," Funk said. Funk mentions he loves being an advocate for his students.

"He's able to do so much, and has continued to be such a cheerleader," Blackhurst said.

Funk had never heard about Tyler before coming here, and explained the moment when he knew he wanted to work here. Funk said it was meeting the art faculty and seeing the campus that made him realize he wanted to work at TJC.

"I've had a lot of great opportunities here. I know a lot of fantastic people. I've worked around some of the smartest people I've ever met, which I really love," Funk said.

THE MOTHER OF THE RENAISSANCE: Beyoncé's Global Impact

By Catalaya Demarco
Multimedia Journalist

Beyoncé said "Start over. Start fresh. Create the new. That's what the Renaissance is about." "RENAISSANCE: A FILM BY BEYONCE" hits theatres on Dec 1.

The Renaissance World Tour became a worldwide phenomenon from the moment Beyoncé announced ticket sales. Social media was instantly set ablaze with reactions from fans, and Ticketmaster recorded queues of 500,000 people on multiple days.

Renaissance is packed full with heavy references to afrofuturism, NYC's underground ballroom scene, and Southern culture. The album cover set the tone of the new era, with Beyoncé in a crystallized corset sitting atop a disco mirrored horse. She sampled ballroom chants, Southern hip-hop, gospel, Chicago house music, New Orleans bounce music, even viral internet videos to create a mid-90's club vibe.

The tour had a cultural impact incomparable to any tour in recent years. With each stop, Beyoncé highlighted the creativity and excellence of Black and LGBTQ creators. She brought many from the underground NYC ballroom community to dance alongside her. Legends such as Darius West and Honey Balenciaga graced the stage with their flamboyancy and queerness. Over 12 countries were able to experience a different queer artform that exists many miles away. The MC and voice of the Renaissance, Kevin JZ Prodigy, said, "You put the community on the biggest stages around the world!" via Instagram: "At each stop, Ballroom saw your tour as a heartfelt expression, it was."

The Renaissance World Tour is not limited to cultural impact. Beyoncé created a halo in the American and European economies. According to The New York Times, the Renaissance World Tour is on a trajectory to contribute a $4.5 billion boost to the American economy. Other news outlets like Revolt and Forbes have compared the impact to what the 2008 Olympics did for Beijing.

In Europe, countries saw a similar trend. Swedish economist Michael Grahn said, "Beyoncé is responsible for the extra upside surprise this month. It's quite astonishing for a single event. We haven't seen this before," in an interview with the Financial Times. Sweden experienced an economic boost of 0.2%. He calls it the "Beyoncé Blip."

At a local level, headlining cities were hit with Renaissance fever. The Thrillist reported that LGBTQ+ owned shopping in Philadelphia experienced an 164% increase in sales. Nail technicians saw a service increase of 193% in Philadelphia and 178% in NYC, while searches for hairstylists increased by 71% and 61%.

Photo courtesy of Parkwood Entertainment

The Renaissance World Tour created a safe space for all attendees. Beyoncé said, "The goal for this tour was to create a place where everyone is free, and no one is judged." She created a sense of inclusion and community by asking everyone to wear silver to match the albums aesthetics. People flocked to stores to attain any glittery, silver pieces to wear to the tour. Kevin JZ Prodigy said, "In each stadium you created a sea of silver, with rhinestones, and so much sequin." He described it as, "A human disco ball that made everyone feel loved, feel safe, away from all troubles outside." People were able to express themselves in the flashiest ways they could. Beyoncé encouraged everyone to sing their loudest and dance their hardest. A shared chance to escape the harsh realities of life. Prodigy acknowledged this by saying, "It wasn't just for for me. It wasn't just for you. You created something for all of us."

The Renaissance World Tour was a celebration of life and individualism that will be remembered for decades to come. To relive the experience, visit your local theatre's website and don't forget your student discount.

A Renaissance of Economics

$4.5 Billion Economic Boost in America

0.2% economic boost in Sweden

Industries benefitting from the Renaissance World Tour: Clothing, Nail Technicians/ Hairstylists, Hotels, Ride-Sharing, etc.

BLAXPLOITATION IS BACK WITH NETFLIX

Review: 'They Cloned Tyrone' brings back the flavor of a bygone era

By Baleigh Davis
Managing Editor

"They Cloned Tyrone (2023)" is a Netflix original film, directed by Juel Taylor, starring John Boyega, Jamie Foxx and Teyonah Parris. Embodying the genres of science fiction, comedy, and mystery, the film follows the unlikely mystery-solving trio of a drug dealer named Fontaine, a pimp named Slick Charles, and a prostitute named Yo-Yo as they are thrust onto the trail of a nefarious government conspiracy happening beneath their neighborhood.

The film is set in a time-ambiguous world, where the mix of dated 20th Century fashion, tech, and cars up against 21st Century pop culture references leaves the viewer never knowing for certain what year it is throughout. With a retrofuturistic vibe, reminiscent of the iconic blaxploitation films of the 70s that created a space for and shined a new light on the creativity of the Black community in the film industry, "They Cloned Tyrone" is a welcome breath of fresh air in a time where sequels and remakes are in abundance; with its costuming, plot and characterization, score and visuals.

Each character is well written and thought out, with motivations, charm, and struggles that made each of them entertaining to watch and easy to root for despite their respective occupations being a detriment to their community. The main cast gives a stellar performance, balancing the heavier plotlines and themes of the film with great comedic timing and improvisation that speak to the talent and strong chemistry of the actors. John Boyega especially showcases his impressive range with the roles of Fontaine and various clones being unlike anything else I've seen him in. And with the actor's strike officially over, I'm excited to see more of him.

The incredible soundtrack of the funky science-fiction comedy adds another layer of depth to the plot, with the somewhat blatant messages of mind control and conspiracy in original songs like "Sheisty" and "w250hz" lending a hand to further express the films' themes of the willingness of the public to overlook the out of place, in favor of living in willful ignorance.

I enjoyed how the film also addressed and played into the conspiracy theories of mind control through consumerism of products targeted to Black American communities like liquor stores, fried chicken restaurants, perm cream and "grape drink," as well as the toxic cycles of placing and allowing some businesses and crimes in those areas that result in the archetypes that the main trio fall into.

Another thing I thoroughly enjoyed is how the story itself tackles the serious subject of white supremacy and institutionalized racism trying to control the Black community without trivializing the struggle, or preaching the themes as if viewers are in a lecture. The government conspiracy draws especially from the disgusting and painful history of medical experiments conducted on Black populations in the U.S. While this sounds like it has no potential to be funny, it is constantly hilarious due to the great chemistry between the main trio, the ridiculous premise and plot armor, and a healthy dose of racial humor. Despite the fact that it is a comedy, it also ends with a serious call to action about building real community with those around you and fighting to break the mold of what people expect you to become.

Overall, I loved "They Cloned Tyrone." It has the same psychological, mind-bending plotlines that fans of shows like Netflix's "Black Mirror," or movies like Jordan Peele's "Get Out" will enjoy. The unique humor and social commentary of "They Cloned Tyrone" makes it a film worth watching over and over again, especially to catch all of the subtle hints and foreshadowing brilliantly sprinkled throughout the film.

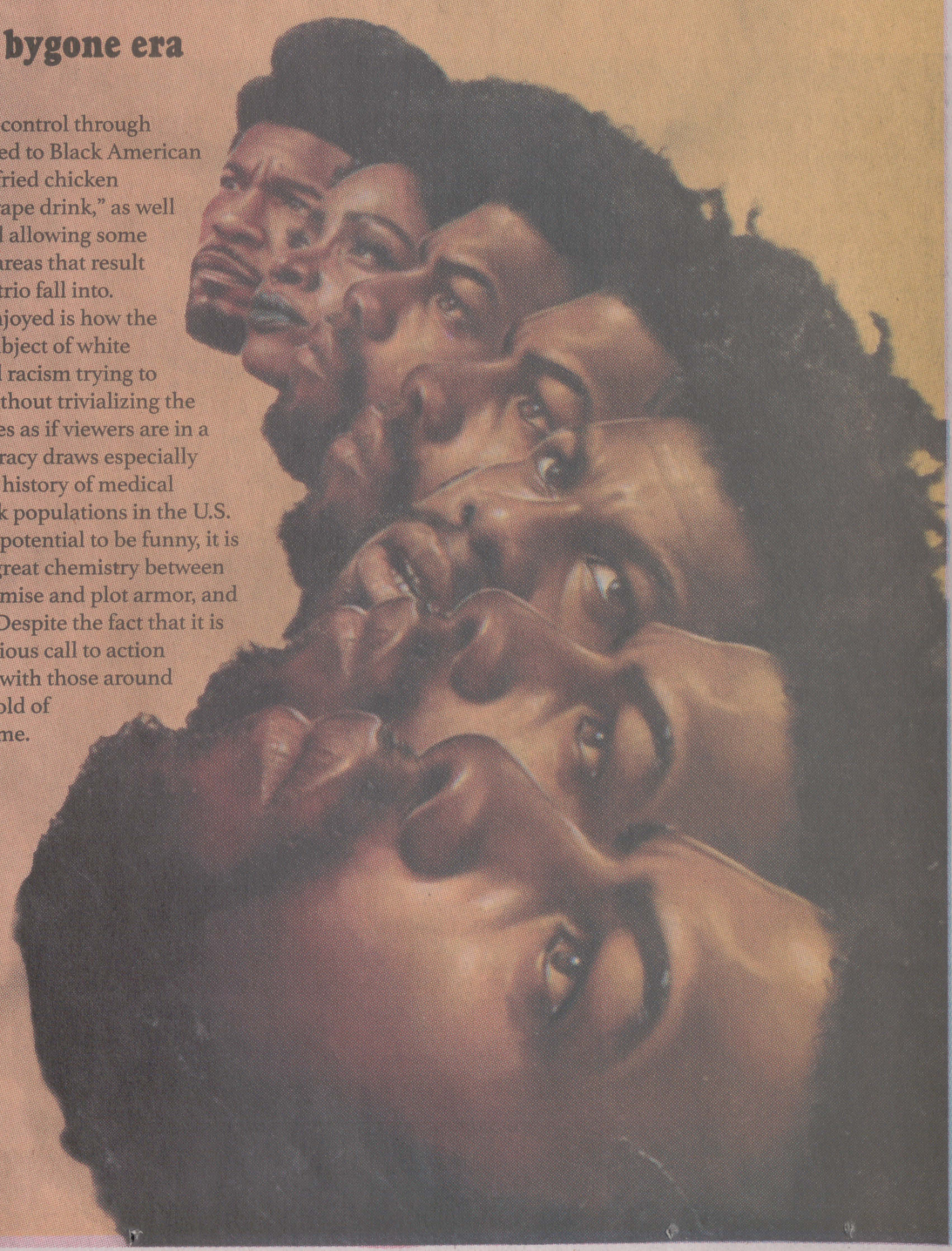


Photo courtesy of Netflix

ANNUAL TJC SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

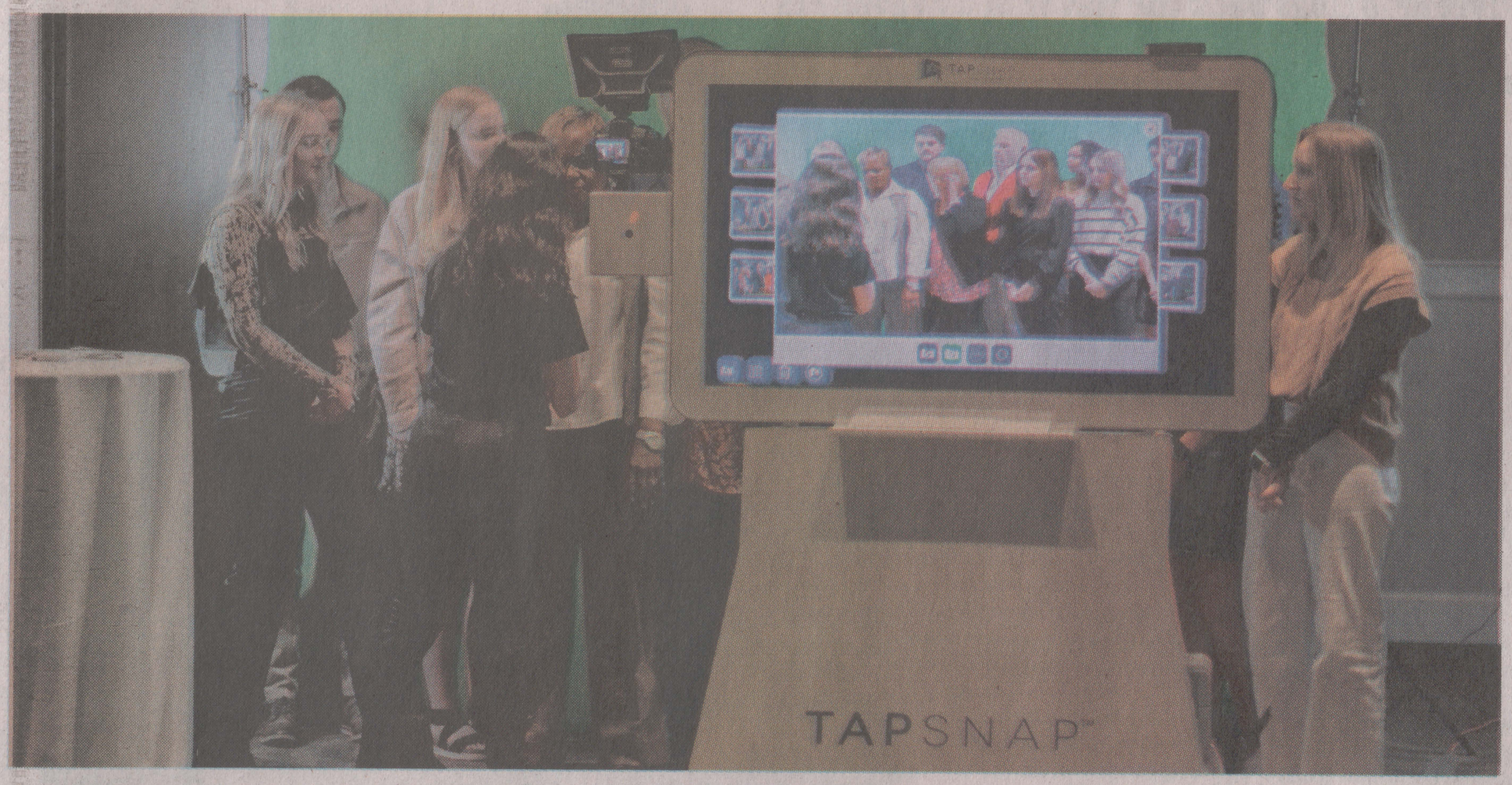
Photos by Garrison Nichols
Multimedia Journalist

The annual Scholarship Luncheon featured over 400 students in attendance as well as almost every donor for scholarships given at TJC. This event was organized by the Tyler Junior College Foundation.

Adriana Weeks is taking part in the Scholarship Luncheon at the Green Acres Baptist Church Crosswalk Conference Center. Weeks is the recipient of the Cynthia L. Sanders Bartos Endowed Scholarship.

Alexa Hayes took part in the Tyler Junior College Scholarship Luncheon for the Volleyball Athletic Scholarship. Her as well as other students were there on behalf of other athletic scholarships.

Jaelyn Cleveland is in attendance for the Annual Scholarship Luncheon. Cleveland received an athletic scholarship for volleyball.



Picture booths were present for students to take pictures with their scholarship donors. "Tapsnap" was the company that TJC rented the photo booths from.

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